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AUTHORITY: 7 U.S.C. 499o; 7 CFR 2.17(a)(8)(xii), 2.50(a)(8)(xiii).

SOURCE: 10 FR 2209, Feb. 27, 1945, unless otherwise noted.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

**§ 47.1 Meaning of words.**

Words in the regulations in this part in the singular form shall be deemed to import the plural, and vice versa, as the case may demand.

**§ 47.2 Definitions.**

As used in the regulations in this part, the terms as defined in section 1 of the Act shall apply with equal force and effect. Unless otherwise defined, the following terms whether used in the regulations in this part, in the Act, or in the trade shall be construed as follows:

(a) *Act* means the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, 1930, approved

June 10, 1930, as amended (46 Stat. 531, 7 U.S.C., 499a *et seq.*, and 499b), and legislation supplementary thereto and amendatory thereof.

(b) *Department* means the United States Department of Agriculture.

(c) *Secretary* means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, or any officer or employee of the Department to whom authority has heretofore been delegated, or to whom authority may hereafter be delegated, to act in his or her stead.

(d) *Service* means the Agricultural Marketing Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

(e) *Deputy Administrator* means the Deputy Administrator for Marketing Services of the Service, or any officer or employee of the Service to whom authority has heretofore lawfully been delegated, or to whom authority may hereafter lawfully be delegated, to act in his or her stead.

(f) *General Counsel* means the General Counsel of the Department or any employee of the Office of the General Counsel to whom the authority to act in his or her stead has heretofore been or may hereafter be delegated.

(g) *Division* means the Fruit and Vegetable Division of the Service.

(h) *Director* means the Director of the Division or any officer or employee of the Division to whom authority has heretofore lawfully been delegated, or to whom authority may hereafter lawfully be delegated by the Director, to act in his or her stead.

(i)(1) *Examiner*. In connection with reparation proceedings, the term “examiner” is synonymous with “presiding officer” and means any attorney employed in the Office of the General Counsel of the Department.

(2) *Administrative Law Judge*. In connection with disciplinary proceedings, the terms “Administrative Law Judge” or “Judge” means any Administrative Law Judge appointed pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3105, assigned to conduct the proceeding.

(j)(1) *Examiner’s report*. In connection with reparation proceedings, “examiner’s report” means the examiner’s report to the Secretary, and includes the examiner’s proposed (i) findings of fact and conclusions with respect to all material issues of fact, law or discretion,

as well as the reasons or basis therefore, (ii) order and (iii) rulings on findings, conclusions and orders submitted by the parties.

(2) *Initial decision.* In connection with disciplinary proceedings, “initial decision” or “decision” means the initial decision of an Administrative Law Judge, and includes the Administrative Law Judge’s (i) findings of fact and conclusions with respect to all material issues of fact, law or discretion, as well as the reasons or basis therefor, (ii) order and (iii) rulings on findings, conclusions and order submitted by the parties.

(k) *Hearing* means that part of the proceeding which involves the submission of evidence and may or may not include an oral hearing.

(l) *Hearing Clerk* means the Hearing Clerk, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

(m) *Disciplinary proceeding* means any proceeding (other than a reparation proceeding) arising under the Act, in which proceeding it is required by law that the order or other determination duly issued shall be made only after an opportunity for a hearing, and, if a hearing be held, only upon the basis of a record made in the course of such hearing.

(n) *Reparation proceeding* means a proceeding in which money damages are claimed and in which the Department is not a party.

(o) *Party* includes the Department in those instances in which a proceeding is instituted upon moving papers filed by an officer or employee of the Department in an official capacity.

(p) *Complainant* means the party upon whose moving paper the proceeding is instituted.

(q) *Respondent* means the party proceeded against, whether the proceeding is instituted by the Department or by a private person.

(r) *Moving paper* means any formal complaint, petition, or order to show cause, by virtue of which a proceeding under the Act is instituted.

(s) *Mail* means to deposit an item in the United States Mail with postage affixed and addressed as necessary to cause it to be delivered to the address shown by ordinary mail, or by certified or registered mail if specified.

(t) *Re-mail* means to mail by ordinary mail to an address an item that has been returned after being sent to the same address by certified or registered mail.

[10 FR 2209, Feb. 27, 1945; 10 FR 8685, July 13, 1945, as amended at 11 FR 224, Jan. 4, 1946; 12 FR 5483, Aug. 13, 1947; 19 FR 57, Jan. 6, 1954; 38 FR 30445, Nov. 5, 1973; 56 FR 174, Jan. 3, 1991; 60 FR 8459, Feb. 14, 1995]

### § 47.3 Institution of proceedings.

(a) *Informal complaints.* (1) Any interested person (including any officer or agency of any State or Territory having jurisdiction over commission merchants, dealers, or brokers in such State or Territory, and any employee of the Department) desiring to complain of any violation of any provision of the Act by any commission merchant, dealer, or broker may file with the Director an informal complaint. Informal complaints may be made the basis of either a disciplinary complaint, or a claim for damages, or both. If the informal complaint is to be made the basis of a claim for damages, it must be received by the Director within 9 months after the cause of action accrues; if the informal complaint is not to be made the basis of a claim for damages, it may be filed at any time within 2 years after the violation of the act occurred: *Provided*, That the 2-year limitation herein prescribed shall not apply to complaints charging flagrant or repeated violations of the act.

(2) Informal complaints may be made by telegram, by letter, or by a preliminary statement of facts, setting forth the essential details of the transaction complained of. So far as practicable, every such informal complaint shall state such of the following items as may be applicable:

(i) The name and address of each person and of the agent, if any, representing him in the transaction involved;

(ii) Quantity and quality or grade of each kind of produce shipped;

(iii) Date of shipment;

(iv) Car initial and number, if carlot;

(v) Shipping and destination points;

(vi) If a sale, the date, sale price, and amount actually received;

(vii) If a consignment, the date, reported proceeds, gross net;